

PSYCHE.

SOME OLD CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN HARRIS, SAY AND PICKERING.—IV.

[HARRIS TO SAY.]

MILTON, Feb'y 21, 1825.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Nuttall has just sent me your letter of Jany. Sth, with the insects which you committed to his charge. I feel myself under additional obligations to you for your attentions, and am highly gratified with the specimens which I have received from you.

I have met with but one individual of the *Dicælus elongatus*; and, since my last, have obtained the male of *Boleto-phagus cornutus*; Yourspecimen is the female, & is of a lighter colour, as is represented in the plate attached to Panzer's Prod[r]omus. Both these insects must be considered as rare in this section of the country. The *Nemognatha vittata* & species of *Lytta* are exceedingly interesting to me. The other insects I have never discovered here; they are therefore valuable additions to my small collection.

Mr. Fuller purchased for me the first vol. of your American Entomology, which is executed in a most beautiful manner, & must add greatly to the literary fame you already enjoy. You are entirely at liberty to quote my localities for any insects which you may hereafter describe, either in this work or the Journal Acad. Nat. Sc. In your Entomol-

ogy I find a species of *Smerinthus* which I have never noticed: we have one however very much like it, which I have taken to be the *ocellata*; whether it may be the *myops* or *excaecata* I cannot determine, having never seen the descriptions of those species.

Feeling myself the great want of books on American entomology, & knowing the impossibility of our insects being determined without good descriptions, I have had it in contemplation to describe all the species which I have collected, with the view to publishing a small local Fauna of the insects in this vicinity. With this intention I have resolved to visit Philadelphia the ensuing spring, to request your assistance in determining the genera & species. You have described so many of our insects which I had considered new, and your descriptions of many of them having never reached me, that I was quite surprised to find that, among those which I have sent you, there were so few nondescripts. I shall immediately obtain the Trans. Am. Philos. Soc. & if possible the Journal of the Lyceum.

As you may publish your descriptions of Coleoptera before I have an opportunity of consulting with you, I will give the names of such of ours as now occur to me, with some remarks on those whose names you gave me in your last letter.

Cicindela purpurea is very common in dry pastures. *C. hirticollis* is rare.* *C. sexguttata*, & 2 varieties, one with an additional spot on the disc, the other without the terminal one, are found in sandy paths. The habitat of *punctulata* is the same. *Elaphrus riparius* is rare. *Carabus catenulatus* is scarce. *Agra pensylvanica* I have found beneath stones on sunny banks. *Omphron limbatum* Latr. inhabits near fresh water streams; *Dytiscus marginalis* in stagnant water. Several other species of *Dytiscus* are found, but I have not made out the species. We have a *Buprestis* which appears to be the *virginiensis*, but my specimen has not the metallic lustre of yours. *Elater oculus* is common; I have not ascertained the habitat of its larva. We have your *E. dorsalis*, & *E. corticinus*. *Lycus dimidiatus* & *L. reticulatus* are generally taken on the wing in the day time, about bushes, & hedges. *Malachius 4-maculatus*? the male is distinguished by having the 2d joint of the antennæ (not the 3d joint, as in Fabricius) dilated, quadrate, & with a deep indentation. But what is most remarkable is that, even by aid of a powerful magnifier, I could detect only 4 joints to the anterior tarsi. Like others of the genus this species is furnished with 4 retractile, tridigitated *tentacula*? or processes, one on each of the thorax & abdomen. Having fixed my specimen to a card I cannot compare the colours beneath with those of your

vittatus; but those of the superior surface correspond exactly, except the antenna, the first and 2d joints of which are rufous, the remainder blackish. Length of the male just $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. The female has the usual number of joints to the anterior tarsi. There some varieties particularly of this sex: In these the thorax is destitute of the black spots; the dilated humeral portion of the margin is extended into a fascia which unites with the suture. This species of *Malachius* I have found in meadows, on the flowers of *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*, in June & July. We have several species of *Ips* which are allied to the *fasciata*. *Attagenus pellio* is very common in houses, & a species, or perhaps variety, without the white dot on the elytron. I have met with a *Lucanus* which corresponds with your *parallelus*, only that there is no small tooth "on the middle of the inferior inner edge" of the mandibles. *Passalus interruptus* is common. *Diaperis maculata* Oliv. is found here upon fungi. Three species of *Lytta* are also found here, viz: *L. cinerea* on the potato-vine &c, *L. marginata* on the *Clematis virginiana*, & *L. atrata* on the *Solidago*. *Bruchus pisi* prevails every year. We have your *Lamia aspersa*, also *L. nebulosa* F. and *Callidium bicolor*, F.

I will now recur to the insects which I sent you in box 1. If No. 2 be *Calosoma calidum* of Fabricius (which I presume you intended when you wrote *calida*) that author was mistaken in describing it as apterous; all the specimens which I have seen certainly have

*In Prof. Peck's cabinet are the only specimens I have seen.

wings. No. 4 I had taken to be the *cisteloïdes* of Schönherr, *flavipes* of Paykull. To No. 9 I had fixed the name of *Q. cupreus*, F.; it is your *Pacilia lucubanda*; to No. 16, your *Amara impunctata*, I gave the name of *Carabus dispar*, Paykull, or *vulgaris*, F. I should not have suspected your *Harpalus rusticus* (No. 11) to have belonged to the genus *Harpalus*, judging from a cursory view, it seems very unlike the other species of that genus. Your *H. viridis*, Nos. 12 and 13, stand in my cabinet by the name of *Æneus*? F. *proteus*? Paykull. The latter name appears appropriate from the variety of shades which different individuals exhibit. You will, I hope, excuse my confessing my mistakes, for such I presume they must be; for you have the best means of knowing that these individuals had not been before described, or that I had not rightly made them out. No. 38 is not the female of *Lampyrus corrusca*. I have obtained the sexes in coitu, & the female is not apterous. No. 41 which you mention as a variety of *L. laticornis*, F. I have found in great numbers on shrubs in July, & never in company with the *laticornis*, No. 42: Hence I conclude it must be distinct, & therefore marked it as the *ater*? F. No. 47, your *S. caudata*, stands in my cabinet as the *Silpha lapponica*, to Fabricius' description of which I thought it corresponded. I cannot discover teeth on the posterior thighs of No. 48, *S. surinamensis* F., as described by Fabricius. Is No. 59 the same as *Dermestes*

marmoratus. Knoch, in Melsheimer's catalogue? No. 66 answers the description of *Scarabæus Hecate*, Panzer, (Faun. Amer. Boreal. Prod[r]omus). No. 74, your *Sc. relictus* is very common in certain localities. On May 21st 1822 I saw the ground covered with them at Hoboken, New Jersey; & last summer great quantities were exhumed from beneath a dung hill in this vicinity, in all their stages of larva, pupa, & imago. No. 75 *Melolontha quercina*, Knoch, is very injurious to fruit trees in June; the larva is equally destructive to the roots of grass. Can No. 82 be a variety of *M. varians*. It has not the ovoid form of the *variens*, & seems nearer allied to your *iricolor*. *Trichius scaber* diffuses so strong an odour that I have frequently discovered it by that alone, when at the distance of several yards. The larva in habits the trunks of decaying trees.* *Melolontha elongata* is found in profusion on oaks in June. To No. 91 I gave the name of *Trox nigritus*, & to 92 that of *T. pulverulentus*. I omitted in course No. 22 which is my *Carabus pusillus*, & No. 33 *Elater pumilus*. No. 93, to which you assign the name of *Tenebrio barbatulus*, lives like the *molitor* about stables, granaries &c. The larva devours corn; is elongated, depressed, corneous, & of a yellow colour, with 6 very small legs at the anterior extremity, & a short tubercle beneath the posterior to assist it in moving. In the pupa the segments of the abdomen are produced, flattened & finely

*Is *Trichius eremicola*, Knoch, the *Scarabæus ebenus* of DeGeer?

serrated, & the tail bifurcated. No. 95 is the only species of *Meloë* I have ever discovered; it is not uncommon in pastures. I cannot reconcile the descriptions of *Diaperis viridipennis* with my specimens of No. 94. They inhabit beneath the bark of decaying trees. To 99 I gave the name of *Curculio hirtus* in my collection. No. 103 I have always taken to be the *Megacepha marmorata*. No. 106 is the *Scolytus cerasi* of my cabinet. Is it not of the genus *Hylurgus*? No. 111 you have marked as a variety of *Callid. fennicum*. Fabricius describes that insect with violaceous elytra. I had marked 111 as the *flavum*, F. In the *Stenocorus putator*, Peck, the 2d and 3d joints of the antennæ are each terminated with one rigid spine; & I agree with you in thinking that it is probably distinct from the *bidens* & *villosus* of Fabricius. 170 is my *Donacia attenuata*. 127 *Crioceris (Lema) trilineata* is found on the vines of the potato & other *Solani* in June. The eggs are affixed to the leaves, & immediately on their being hatched the larvæ enter the earth. No. 133 inhabits the leaves of the apple tree. The larva devours the parenchymatous substance of the leaf, the cuticle remaining untouched. Here it changes to a nymph, & emerges from its retreat only when it has assumed the imago. The larvæ of 130 *Imatidium argus*, feed upon the leaves of the *Convolvuli*; those of 132, *Cassida aurichalcea*, on the leaves of the sweet potato, & the *Solanum dulcamara*. *Eumolpus*

auratus I have always found on the *Apocynum androsæmifolium*, and *Chrysomela trimaculata* on the *Asclepias syriaca* on which plant the larva & pupa of the latter are also found. *Coccinella 9-notata*, & *C. abbreviata* inhabit the leaves of the carrot, from which I have obtained the larva & pupa. Your *C. bioculata* is constantly found in all its stages on the *Ligustrum vulgare*. 163, your *Colaspis 10-notata*, I have found only upon the leaves of the oak. No. 175 is my *Helops piceus*.

The marine shells which I intended for you, were unfortunately mislaid or lost, & I have delayed this letter in the hopes of recovering & sending them by a private conveyance. They were not of much value for rareness or beauty, but were such as are common here, & which I can therefore replace in the course of the summer.

With sentiments of respect,
Yr. obed't friend
T. Wm. Harris.

[Endorsed with the following notes by Thomas Say]:—

Malachius 4-maculatus Fabr.; it is certainly the 3d j't. Fab. is right; the ant'r tarsi have 5 very distinct joints. *Mal. vittatus* some of my spec's have the anten'a dusky at tip. *Lucanus parallelus* the fem. has the tooth somet's hardly obvious. *Calosoma calida* and several others Fab. descr'd as apterous have wings.